

NTSB ACADEMY

2002 Annual Report

The NTSB Academy is a major Safety Board initiative to improve the training and skills of its own employees, and make its safety expertise more widely available to the diverse transportation community. In 2000, the NTSB selected The George Washington University as the new home for the Academy. In 2001, the NTSB and the university signed a 20-year lease. A major portion of a new building, located on university's campus in Ashburn, Virginia, was completed in 2002. The building is expected to open in late summer 2003.



Artist's rendering of classroom and laboratory buildings.



Students represent 24 nations

Although the facility was still under construction, eleven courses were offered in 2002 under the Academy's sponsorship. These courses trained 55 NTSB employees and more than 250 transportation professionals from the U.S. and 24 foreign nations. They included:

- A two-and-a-half-week course in basic aircraft accident investigation for newly hired investigators from the NTSB, industry, and other government agencies from the U.S. and other nations.
- Two comprehensive family assistance courses for those who assist friends and families of major transportation accident victims.
- Three courses for NTSB staff to prepare for public hearings.
- Two courses to prepare NTSB investigators for class instruction.
- Two courses of airline industry training to familiarize industry representatives with their duties and responsibilities during NTSB accident investigations.
- A newly developed course designed for law enforcement officers who initially respond to transportation disasters.

World-class facility

The state-of-the-art, 72,000-square-foot, two-level facility contains five classrooms, a large laboratory, equipped with an 15-ton crane, to house the three-dimensional, 93-foot reconstruction of the forward portion of the TWA flight 800 aircraft's fuselage, ample laboratory space, an outside simulations court, meeting rooms, student and teacher work areas, and offices.

The structures began rising from a graded site of red dirt in January to a nearly complete two-level classroom building in December. By the end of 2002, an attached football field-sized laboratory's steel superstructure and 25% of its outside walls were completed.

Also, during the year, numerous contracts were signed to provide furniture, cabling, security, and audio-visual capabilities for the Academy building.

Administrative services and staff

Since the Safety Board established the Office of the Academy in 2001, an administrative infrastructure has been developed to support the delivery and development of current and future courses. These include a student registration and records database management system, procedures for setting tuition costs, internal and external websites, and protocols for tracking tuition collected and course costs.

During 2001, the NTSB selected a core staff of five to plan, develop and execute the Academy's objectives: an Academy director, an assistant director of instruction, an operations manager, a communications manager, and an administrative officer. In 2002, the NTSB selected an Academy President and Academic Dean, and a registrar.



Curriculum development

The Academy Curriculum Development Committee met semi-annually. Its chairman is the managing director, and its members are the office directors. The committee reviews training needs and suggests resources. The committee also approves the work of the Academy staff that is responsible for identifying and developing curricula in all modes; developing courses and course material; and identifying effective instructors.

Twelve courses were selected to be presented in 2003, including four under development: survival factors, human factors, fire and explosion, and witness interviewing in transportation accidents. All four are being designed for multi-modal audiences.

Outreach

Academy staff met with several transportation safety organizations and institutions of higher learning to help develop Academy partnerships. Staff also made several safety presentations to international organizations meeting in Canada, Scotland, and Colombia.

Mission

To provide comprehensive education and training for those who improve safety by conducting independent transportation accident investigations; to foster an environment that encourages transportation safety initiatives and technical research; and to promote uniform programs that ensure compassion, understanding, and assistance for those affected by transportation tragedies.

Global goal

***Independence, integrity and innovation
in transportation accident investigation.***

Website

www.nts.gov

